

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 STR-04 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00
USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OES-06 L-03 OIC-02 EURE-00 /119 W
-----111535Z 125943 /46

P 111505Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 5673

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, OECD
SUBJECT: TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 22-23

REF: OECD PARIS 6865

FOLLOWING ARE MISSION COMMENTS ON CERTAIN ITEMS OF
TRADE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORTED REFTEL:

1. ELECTIONS: THE TRADE COMMITTEE ELECTS ITS CHAIRMAN
AT ITS FIRST MEETING EACH YEAR. SECRETARIAT SAYS THAT
PRESENT INCUMBENTS, STEEG OF FRG AND LEVY OF SWITZER-
LAND, ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE IN THESE POSITIONS, AND
MISSION ASSUMES US SUPPORTS THEIR REELECTION.
2. TRADE PLEDGE: SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAVE TOLD US
THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING ANY ELABORATION
US DEL TO TRADE COMMITTEE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE OF
UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S INDICATION AT RECENT XCSS THAT
US FAVORS PLACING BILATERAL TRADE DISCUSSIONS ON
SECTORAL PROBLEMS UNDER BETTER INTERNATIONAL SUR-
VEILLANCE, SO THAT SIDE EFFECTS ON THIRD PARTIES CAN
BE FULLY ASSESSED.

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3. SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT: NOW THAT CIEC
DATES ARE FAIRLY CLEAR, US MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO MAKE
GENERAL STATEMENT ON NEED FOR CIEC PARTICIPANTS TO
DEVELOP COMMON POSITION ON TRADE QUESTIONS FOR FINAL
SERIES OF MEETINGS - WITH OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING
GENERAL TC SUPPORT FOR G-8 EFFORTS TO COORDINATE VIEWS.

DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANYTHING ADDITIONAL SHOULD BE DONE AT OECD TO ASSIST MEMBER COUNTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH LDC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED "FRAMEWORK GROUP" OF THE MTN.

4. TRADE POLICY NOTIFICATIONS: WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL, FOR INSTANCE IF US INTENDS TO COMMENT ON THE CANADIAN TEXTILE ACTIONS, TO MAKE A BROAD PITCH FOR RENEWAL OF THE MFA, WITH REFERENCE TO THE EFFECT OF THIS MATTER ON RELATIONS WITH LDC'S. US MIGHT ALSO WISH TO QUESTION FRENCH ON NEW RESOURCES DEVOTED TO THEIR SCHEME FOR FINANCING EXPORT ORIENTED INVESTMENTS (SEE PARIS 6298, PARA 8). THIS SCHEME, FIRST IMPLEMENTED IN 1974, IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE "TRADE MEASURE" BY THE FRENCH AND HAS NEVER BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE OECD, ALTHOUGH UNDER IT ACCESS TO LOANS AT LESS THAN MARKET RATES OF INTEREST IS CONDITIONED ON COMMITMENT TO EXPAND EXPORTS. THE GOF'S "BUY FRENCH" PRONOUNCEMENTS MIGHT ALSO BE WORTH SOME COMMENT (PARIS 3874). ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME THAT ANYONE WILL EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT USITC FINDINGS ON FOOTWEAR, SUGAR, AND TV'S, OR ZENITH/US STEEL COURT CASES, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT US DELEGATION COME PREPARED TO FIELD SUCH COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON THESE AS MAY ARISE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA, TRADE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OECDP07201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770084-0841
Format: TEL
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770369/aaaacinu.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbc6bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OECD PARIS 6865
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3135685
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 22-23
TAGS: ETRD, US, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbc6bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009